

COMMENT FORM FOR: **BETTY BARATS** - ID# 3034

Consumer Information	
Confidential Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None	
Name	BETTY BARATS
Organization Company	
Address City, State, Zip Code	
Email	[REDACTED]
Primary Phone #	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	

Comment Information	
Theme	Drastic Increase
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided
Source	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> Web
Public Involvement Lead	John Cupp
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Description	<p>TO: Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission</p> <p>Date: May 19, 2007</p> <p>Re: Rosario Utilities Request for Rate Increase</p> <p>This last week, users of the Rosario Utilities water system received notice of the application for a rate increase. We have experienced a lot of increases over the past few years in the cost of gasoline, ferry tickets and electric power that, of course, cause all goods and services to increase as well. However, none of those increases comes anywhere close to the outrageously exorbitant increase the Rosario Utility is requesting: a base rate increase of 69% plus an increase to the minimal usage of about 20000%. I cannot imagine in what galaxy that would be reasonable.</p> <p>I know the utility is being sold. My question is whether the selling price has been set, or is this an attempt to make the utility look so good as to justify a higher selling price. Yet again, another mainland corporation fleecing the residents of Orcas Island.</p> <p>For the past four years or so, the Rosario Utility water users have been</p>

paying a \$22 surcharge for the new processing plant. That surcharge went to payments on the loan that was taken to build the plant. That loan was provided by board members of the utility at, I believe, 10% interest. I never understood why or how that could be legal since it seemed incestuous to me. In the end, Rosario Utility owns the plant. When I asked about that at a meeting, I was told that the residents "donated" the plant to the utility. I don't ever recall anyone asking me if I wanted to donate over \$1050 to the utility (my surcharge for 4 years).

Even after the new plant was built, there were property owners who could not get water hook-ups. Suddenly, with the push to pass the Rosario Master Plan, there is enough water for a build-out of the property. However, I also understand that it will require an addition to the plant for which the property owners will pay. Here we go again.

I am not a conspiracy theorist, but it seems there is a movement underfoot to encourage middle and working class residents of the San Juan Islands to move elsewhere. This was meant to be my retirement home, and I am planning to retire in six weeks. I am seriously considering that I will need to sell my home and leave the community that has meant so much to me in the past 17 years.

I'm not suggesting there should be no increase. I am praying that reasonableness will prevail.

With trust in the intelligence and fairness of the commissioners

Betty Barats

Attachments

Follow-Up Information		Other Follow-Up Information	
Follow-Up	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Other Follow-Up	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Follow-Up Staff		Other Follow-Up Staff	
Follow-Up Complete	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	169
Company	Rosario Utilities, Llc
Filing	070944
Staff	Jim Ward

Complaint Information	
Unresolved Complaint	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Complaint ID	

**Activites For Betty Barats**